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APPLICATION NO. 5	FILING DATE 00	LEVIN FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
		S	EPLC/03

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PM82/0801

EXAMINER
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KOVACS, A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3671	

DATE MAILED: 08/01/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trad marks

## Office Action Summary

Application No.  
**09/531,735**

Applicant(s)  
**Levin et al.**

Examiner  
**Árpád Fábián Kovács**

Art Unit  
**3671**



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jul 2, 2001
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

### Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 17) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 6 20) ☐ Other:

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## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Specification***

1. Applicant is reminded of the proper content of an Abstract of the Disclosure.

A patent abstract is a concise statement of the technical disclosure of the patent and should include that which is new in the art to which the invention pertains.

If the patent is of a basic nature, the entire technical disclosure may be new in the art, and the abstract should be directed to the entire disclosure.

If the patent is in the nature of an improvement in an old apparatus, process, product, or composition, the abstract should include the technical disclosure of the improvement.

If the new technical disclosure involves modifications or alternatives, the abstract should mention by way of example the preferred modification or alternative.

The abstract should not refer to purported merits or speculative applications of the invention and should not compare the invention with the prior art.

Where applicable, the abstract should include the following: (1) if a machine or apparatus, its organization and operation. Extensive mechanical and design details of apparatus should not be given.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 250 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 250 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means"

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and "said", should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes, **There is disclosed**" *etc.*

2. Second notice that the title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

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***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim(s) 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In re claim 4, as recited in lines 3-4, it appears to be incomplete, the claim is unclear and indefinite (this is the second notice).

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***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claim(s) 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shurman et al (5007234).

Shurman discloses a lawn mower comprising:

a cutting system comprising blade assemblies each comprising a blade & a motor independent of each other (12a-d, 10a-d);

the blade assemblies include at least three blades (12a-c) (in re claim 2);

the blade assemblies are spaced apart to define a continuous cut segment (see fig 2, part of ref S) (in re claim 3);

the second blade assembly (12b) is intermediate the first & third blade assemblies (see fig 1a) and having planes which are parallel to each other (in re claim 4);

the length of blade assemblies are less than the cutting width (part of ref S) (in re claim 5).

7. Claim(s) 6-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Boains, Jr (4696153).

Boains discloses a lawn mower blade assembly comprising:

a motor shaft or stub (28; column 3, line 37);

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a blade (44);

a receiver coupled to the blade & including members for receiving the stub shaft and retaining the stub in the receiver in a releasable engagement (10 & receiver members 52);

the motor stub, blade & receiver are in coaxial alignment (see fig 1) (in re claim 11);

the stub includes an outer surface (28) and the receiver includes an inner surface (14) for being capable of **allowing sufficient** rotation for the blade (in re claims 7 & 11);

the members' bodies (52) are flexible for being capable of spring like behavior & extending in outwardly extending platforms (50), when pressure is applied to the platforms the members are capable of being **operable** (in re claim 8).

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*Response to Amendments & Arguments*

8. Applicant's amendments & arguments with respect to claims 1-11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.



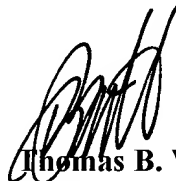
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*Conclusion*

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Walto, Duran et al., Sueshige et al., Fleigle, Braun et al show closely related arts to applicant's invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Árpád Fábíán Kovács at telephone number (703) 308-5897, or in my absence contact Thomas B. Will whose telephone number is (703) 308-3870.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113. The fax phone number for the Group is (703) 305-3597.



**Thomas B. Will**  
**Supervisory Patent Examiner**  
**GROUP 3671**

áfK/ÁFK  
July 26, 2001